

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An absorbent article for disposition at least partially within the vestibule of a female wearer, said absorbent article comprising:

    a liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer;

    an outer cover in generally superposed relationship with the liner; and

    an absorbent structure formed separate from the liner and the outer cover and being disposed therebetween, said absorbent structure being sized and configured for insertion at least partially within the vestibule of the female wearer, said absorbent structure being constructed at least in part of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, a concentration of the superabsorbent material in the absorbent structure being in the range of about 5 weight percent to about 35 weight percent, said superabsorbent material having a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.5, said absorbent structure having a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test of at least about 15 grams/gram, a retention capacity as determined by said Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test of at least about 3 grams/gram, and an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of no more than about 30 seconds.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) The absorbent article set forth in claim [[2]] 1 wherein the absorbent structure comprises in the range of about 15 weight percent to about 35 weight percent superabsorbent material.

4. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 3 wherein the absorbent structure comprises in the range of about 15 weight percent to about 25 weight percent superabsorbent material.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The absorbent article set forth in claim [[5]] 1 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.6.

7. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the retention capacity of the absorbent structure as determined by the Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test is at least about 4 grams/gram.

8. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.05 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.13 grams/cubic centimeters.

9. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 8 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.13 grams/cubic centimeters.

10. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 9 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.11 grams/cubic centimeters.

11. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein absorbent structure has a maximum length in the range of about 60 to about 100 millimeters and a maximum width in the range of about 40 to about 70 millimeters.

12. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a thickness in the range of about 1 to about 8 millimeters.

13. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 12 wherein the absorbent structure has a thickness in the range of about 1 to about 5 millimeters.

14. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 13 wherein the absorbent structure has a thickness in the range of about 2 to about 3 millimeters.

15. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a basis weight in the range of about 150 to about 400 grams per square meter.

16. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 15 wherein the absorbent structure has a basis weight in the range of about 200 to about 350 grams per square meter.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a predetermined axis of flexure extending generally longitudinally of said article, the absorbent structure being foldable on said predetermined axis of flexure.

19. (Previously presented) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure comprises a mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers.

20. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 19 wherein the mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers is a generally homogeneous mixture.

21. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure is of unitary construction.

22. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure further has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 1 gram.

23. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 22 wherein the absorbent structure has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 0.7 grams.

24. (Previously presented) An absorbent article for disposition at least partially within the vestibule of a female wearer, said absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure sized and configured for insertion at least partially within the vestibule of the female wearer, said absorbent structure comprising in the range of about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent superabsorbent material, said absorbent structure having a basis weight in the range of about 150 to about 400 grams per square meter and a density in the range of about 0.05 to about 0.13 grams per cubic centimeter, said absorbent structure having a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test of at least about 15 grams/gram and a retention capacity as determined by said Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test of at least about 3 grams/gram.

25. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the retention capacity of the absorbent structure as determined by the Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test is at least about 4 grams/gram.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.13 grams/cubic centimeters.

29. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 28 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.11 grams/cubic centimeters.

30. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure has an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of no more than about 30 seconds.

31. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein absorbent structure has a maximum length in the range of about 60 to about 100 millimeters and a maximum width in the range of about 40 to about 70 millimeters.

32. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 further comprising a liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer, and an outer cover in generally superposed relationship with the liner, the absorbent structure being disposed between the liner and the outer cover.

33. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent article has a predetermined axis of flexure extending generally longitudinally of said article, the absorbent structure being foldable on said predetermined axis of flexure.

34. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure comprises a mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers.

35. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 34 wherein the mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers is a generally homogeneous mixture.

36. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure is of unitary construction.

37. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.5.

38. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 37 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.6.

39. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure further has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 1 gram.

40. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 39 wherein the absorbent structure has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 0.7 grams.

41. (Original) An absorbent article for disposition at least partially within the vestibule of a female wearer, said absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure sized and configured for insertion at least partially within the vestibule of the female wearer, said absorbent structure comprising in the range of about 5 weight percent to about 35 weight percent superabsorbent material, said absorbent structure having a basis weight in the range of about 150 to about 400 grams per square meter and a density in the range of about 0.05 to about 0.13 grams per

cubic centimeter, said absorbent structure having an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of no more than about 30 seconds.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.13 grams/cubic centimeters.

45. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent structure has a density in the range of about 0.08 grams/cubic centimeters to about 0.11 grams/cubic centimeters.

46. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein absorbent structure has a maximum length in the range of about 60 to about 100 millimeters and a maximum width in the range of about 40 to about 70 millimeters.

47. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 further comprising a liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer, and an outer cover in generally superposed relationship with the liner, the absorbent structure being disposed between the liner and the outer cover.



48. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent article has a predetermined axis of flexure extending generally longitudinally of said article, the absorbent structure being foldable on said predetermined axis of flexure.

49. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent structure comprises a mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers.

50. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 49 wherein the mixture of superabsorbent material and hydrophilic fibers is a generally homogeneous mixture.

51. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent structure is of unitary construction.

52. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.5.

53. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 52 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.6.

54. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent structure further has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 1 gram.

55. (Original) The absorbent article set forth in claim 54 wherein the absorbent structure has a rewet as determined by the Intake and Rewet Test of less than or equal to about 0.7 grams.

56. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 15 grams/gram to about 30 grams/gram.

57. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a retention capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 3.9 grams/gram to about 7.6 grams/gram.

58. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of greater than or equal to about 15 seconds.

59. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 15 grams/gram to about 30 grams/gram, a retention capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 3.9 grams/gram to about 7.6 grams/gram, and an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of greater than or equal to about 15 seconds.

60. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure has a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 15 grams/gram to about 30 grams/gram.

61. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure has a retention capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 3.9 grams/gram to about 7.6 grams/gram.

62. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent structure has a saturation capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 15 grams/gram to about 30 grams/gram, and a retention capacity as determined by a Saturation Capacity and Retention Capacity Test in the range of about 3.9 grams/gram to about 7.6 grams/gram.

63. (New) The absorbent article set forth in claim 41 wherein the absorbent structure has an intake time for a first insult of said absorbent structure as determined by an Intake and Rewet Test of greater than or equal to about 15 seconds.